THE

Monthly Catalogue:

BEING

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" excepting the *Roman* catho-
" licks, may read this hiſtory
" with pleaſure, and without
" fear of being impos'd upon by
" a repreſentation of things dif-
" ferent from what they were in
" reality. The ſtile is clear, eaſy
" and unaffected, and has all the
" beauties that the ſubject wou'd
" admit of.

" OF all the late councils
" there's none, except the coun-
" cil of *Trent*, whoſe hiſtory and
" deciſions are of more impor-
" tance than this of *Conſtance*.
" Where the author has de-
" ſcended to particulars, and to
" ſuch diſcuſſions of things, as
" ſeem at firſt view of no great
" importance, one may perceive
" in reading this hiſtory, that it
" wou'd not have been compleat
" without it, and that the ſeries
" of the narrative made it abſo-
" lutely neceſſary. The author
" has not confin'd himſelf only
" to the proceedings of the coun-
" cil, but has alſo taken all the
" care he cou'd to give the lives
" and characters of thoſe mem-
" bers of the council, eſpecially,
" who made any figure in it.

" *M. Lenfant* has a fine pre-
" face before his hiſtory, in
" which he juſtly obſerves, that
" this was a very memorable
" council, and that the things
" therein tranſacted were of the
" laſt importance. —— The de-
" poſing of two popes (*Gregory*
" XII. and *Benedict* XIII.); the
" voluntary or forc'd abdication
" of a third (*John* XXIII.) the
" re-union of all the chriſtian
" ſtates; the preſence and per-
" petual activity of the emperor
" *Sigiſmond*, for the ſupport and
" ſucceſs of this aſſembly; the
" ſuperiority of general councils
" over popes, which was therein
" eſtabliſh'd; the deciſions upon
" ſuch matters as concern'd all
" chriſtendom; the puniſhment
" of *John Huſs* and *Jerome* of
" *Prague*; the reformation in diſ-
" cipline and morals demanded,
" with incredible inſtances, which
" were back'd by one part of the
" council, and always eluded by
" the other; and finally, the ele-
" ction and coronation of a pope;
" all theſe ſubjects are very pro-
" per to raiſe the attention of
" readers, tho' of ever ſo little
" curioſity, and to inſpire them
" with a juſt impatience to know
" all the particulars, and to pe-
" netrate into the motives and
" ſprings of ſuch great events.
" And I can engage from my own
" experience, that ſuch as have
" leiſure to read them through-
" out, will not repent of their
" trouble.

" THIS council was conſide-
" rable, not only for the great
" number of clergymen of all or-
" ders, who repair'd to it, but
alſo

" also for the princes, who were " there, besides the emperor; not " to mention the ambassadors of " such as cou'd not go to it, and " a multitude of the nobility. " It was not the only business of " this, as it was of most of the " preceding councils, to deter- " min certain points of doctrine " or discipline, to condemn real " or pretended hereticks, and to " reform such abuses as had on- " ly crept into some parts of *Eu-* " *rope*, or among a certain order " of men: This council had " greater work upon their hands, " *viz.* to restore peace to all the " west, which was rent by a " schism of near forty years stand- " ing. In a corruption so gene- " ral, as the clergy were in at " that time, it was very difficult " to find out a person for St. *Pe-* " *ter*'s chair, that wou'd be ac- " ceptable to so many nations, " who were divided by separate " interests, and taught by expe- " rience of what had past, to be " more upon their guard whom " to chuse. Upon this head, the " council was not wanting either " in prudence or vigour, and ne- " ver did any ecclesiastical assem- " bly signalize its authority, " with regard to popes, by de- " crees that were more severe, " and at the same time more " just.

" In this history the reader " will find new light in the af- " fair of *John Huss*, and his safe " conduct, as well as with regard " to his opinion. Such as had " not throughly examin'd this " matter, imagin'd that *John* " *Huss* and his disciple *Jerome* " of *Prague* were the fore-run- " ners of *Luther* and *Calvin*, and " that their sentiments were " much the same. But the con- " trary appears from the account " given by *M. Lenfant*. They " both believ'd transubstantia- " tion, and that the adoration of " the host was an indispensable " duty; they also held the invo- " cation of saints, and most of " the other tenets, which are " disputed betwixt the protes- " tants and the church of *Rome*. " They did not so much as re- " quire the communion in both " kinds; nor did they teach, that " it should be celebrated in that " manner. The council was most " offended with them, for the " inclination they shew'd to shake " of the yoak of ecclesiastical au- " thority; not so much for its " being a tyranny in it self, " which they maintain'd after- " wards, as for the abuses of that " authority, and the ill-manners " of the clergy. The other o- " pinions which they were charg- " ed with holding, in opposition " to those of the *Romish* church,

"were expreſs'd in ſuch obſcure "ſtrange terms, that it were ea- "ſy to put a conſtruction upon "them in favour of that church "according to her principles and "their own ideas. But it ſeems, "that the council was not in- "clin'd to hear them, in order "to render them the more guil- "ty and to make an example of "them, for reclaiming the other "*Bohemians* to their duty, who "refus'd ſubmiſſion to their bi- "ſhops. But the beſt way to "form a right judgment of the "whole, is to read *M. Lenfant*'s "hiſtory with attention.

"As for the helps which *M* "*Lenfant* had to write it, he "tells us himſelf, that beſides "the annaliſts, collectors of coun- "cils, chronologiſts, and the "like authors, whom he has not "neglected, he has chiefly made "uſe of the *German* hiſtorians, "and the monuments of that "time lately diſcover'd in *Ger-* "*many*. But nothing has ren- "der'd this hiſtory ſo exact and "compleat, as the great collec- "tion of the acts of this council "in ſix volumes in folio, for "which the publick is oblig'd to "the liberality of *Rodolph Au-* "*guſtus* duke of *Brunſwic*, who "employ'd a very learned man, "that was divinity profeſſor at "*Helmſtad*, to collect them. And "the author owns in his preface, "what vaſt obligations he had "to this collection. He has al- "ſo conſulted the beſt hiſtories "he cou'd find of the affairs of "*Bohemia*, *Poland*, the acts of "the famous aſſembly at *Pa-* "*ris*, by *Gerſon*; *Recanati*'s his- "ſtory of *Florence*; the acts and "monuments of *England*, collec- "ted by Mr. *Rymer*; the hiſto- "ry of that country by *Rapin* "*Thoyras*, and many other autho- "rities, too tedious to mention, "which he has carefully quoted "and mark'd in the margents."

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PROPOSALS are given gratis, and Subſcriptions are taken in by Mr. *Hauksbee*, at the Houſe of the Royal Society, in *Crane Court*; and by Mr. *Senex*, at the Globe, over-aginſt St. *Dunſtan*'s Church in *Fleet-Street*.

HAVING for five Years past (with some Approbation and Encouragement) carried on my Design of a MONTHLY CATALOGUE of BOOKS, *&c.* I find my self at last attack'd by a Brother Trader, in my little Interest in that Way; who, in order to establish a Sort of a Monthly Collection of News Paper Intelligence, has thought an Infringement upon me to be the less a Crime, as despairing to succeed in his Design without it: The Apology he makes for himself, is, That he first of all acquainted me with his Intention, which I acknowledge; as likewise, that he invited me into a Share of his Collection, but with this Proviso, that the *Monthly* CATALOGUE must be suppress'd: I shall leave it to any one to judge, whether by such Compliances, it may not be in the Power of any Person to supplant another in his Designs, by some pretended Project of his own.

I hope what I have observ'd will not be thought improper, intending, by the Favour of my Friends, still to prosecute my Design: And in Order further to oblige them, I have encreas'd my Expence, in altering the Form of Printing, without enhancing the Price, whereby I shall not only be enabled to insert a compleat Account of BOOKS publish'd in each respective Month, but likewise to receive PROPOSALS at large from Gentlemen and Booksellers, for Printing by Subscription, resolving to confine my self to what relates to Matters of Learning only, which I think to be a Province sufficient at one Time, without tacking to it a Parcel of Stories from News Papers, and calling it a Chronicle; which I must confess, I had once a Thought of doing, but laid it aside, as being afraid it wou'd too much clash with my original Design.

I shall likewise take due Care to publish my Account of Books printed in the preceding, within six Days of every succeeding, Month; and in the mean Time, I cannot but return due Thanks to all my Subscribers, for their Generous and Unanimous Resentment of what is so apparently calculated to my Disadvantage; and shall endeavour still to deserve the good Opinion they have hitherto entertain'd of the Performance of their

Obliged Humble Servant,

JOHN WILFORD.

FINIS.